

REMARKS

No claims have been amended, canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 9-21, 23, 25, 27-31, 33-46, 49-56, 59-71, 73, 75, 77-81 and 83-86 remain in the present application.

In the Final Office Action mailed October 5, 2007, the Examiner allowed claims 14-21, 23, 41-46, 49, 50, 64-71 and 73, rejected claims 1-6, 9-13, 25-31, 33-37, 51-56, 59-63, 75-81 and 83-86, and objected to claims 38-40.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the claims.

A. Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-5, 9-13, 51-55 and 59-63 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunner et al (US 6567462), in view of Yamada et al (US 5822364). The Examiner has also finally rejected claims 25-31, 33, 37, 75-81, 83 and 86 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al (US 6414985), in view of Yamada et al (US 5822364). Applicant respectfully disagrees. For the reasons that follow, applicant submits that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references of record.

The Examiner acknowledges Brunner and Furukawa fail to disclose coherently combining different portions of the product values to produce three coherent sums each comprising one of the first correlation values (see p.3 and p.5 of the Office Action dated May 17, 2007), but cites Yamada as purported disclosing this feature. In the earlier office action dated May 17, 2007, the Examiner cites to Yamada (Fig. 2 and col. 6:9-16). As pointed out by applicant in the previous response, the cited section in Yamada corresponding to Fig. 2 and col. 6:9-16 discloses a single adder 17 for producing a single output. In the present final rejection, the Examiner now cites to a separate section of Yamada (Fig. 2, element 26; Col. 6: 21-23). However, element 26 fails to cure the earlier deficiencies. As shown in Fig. 2 (element 26) and more clearly described by Fig. 9 (element 126), adders 26 and 126 do not function to “coherently combine different portions of the product values to produce a plurality of coherent sums each comprising one of the first correlation values.” Instead, as explained in conjunction with Fig. 9 of Yamada, the output of each adder 126 produces an error signal associated with known signals 114, 115 and output of multiplexers 116 (Col. 1:51-53 of Yamada). In this way, adders 126 (and

adder 26) provide error values to assist in providing proper weighting coefficients 22 during information signal processing (Col. 1:54-60 of Yamada). Importantly, adders 126 (and 26) do not combine different portions of the outputs of multiplexers 116 (and 16), but only the contribution of each respective multiplexer 116 (and 16). Moreover, the error signals generated by adders 126 (and 26) are not a plurality of partial coherent sums, which are subsequently “transformed into a plurality of second correction values...” and “searched for the time offset information” as additionally specified by claim 1. In sum, the combined references of Brunner, Furukawa and Yamada fail to achieve or remotely disclose the method and apparatus claimed. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits claims 1, 25, 51 and 75 are patentably distinct over the cited references of record. Allowance of claims 1, 25, 51 and 75 and their corresponding dependent claims are respectfully requested.

B. Allowable claims

Claims 14-21, 23, 41-46, 49, 50, 64-71 and 73 stand allowed. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 38-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s statement of allowable subject matter in these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

No fees are believed due in connection with the present submission. However, if it is determined that fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s) or credit any overpayment(s) to Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If necessary, applicant requests, under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application and to charge the fees for a large entity under 37 CFR 1.17(a).

Respectfully submitted,

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